**Problem of alcoholism**

532. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by NIMHANS, Bangalore, and WHO has revealed that alcoholism has assumed epidemic proportions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) A study, titled "Alcohol, Gender and Drinking problems: Perspectives from Low and Middle Income Countries" has been carried out recently by NIMHANS, Bangalore with the support of WHO. The study was conducted in 5 districts of Karnataka to study the alcohol drinking behaviour in male and female population, reasons for drinking and the consequences thereof. The study does not suggest that alcoholism has assumed epidemic proportions in the country.

**'OUTREACH' programme of NIOH, Kolkata**

533. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NIOH has conducted any outreach camps outside Kolkata for the benefit of handicapped people;

(b) whether it is a fact that NIOH, Kolkata has conducted extensive orientation and rehabilitation camps all over the country;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to expand this constructive programme of NIOH, Kolkata; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage NIOH to propagate such relief camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) National Institutes including National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped are extending outreach services to poor and